

Claremont

I-6-1925

Dear Friend:-

Well, we went to San Quentin and back, as I had told Alice we would do. I will write this as a kind of report of the trip, botanically speaking, and wind up with some suggestions as the result of the trip.

I was invited by Prof. Hilton to join the party. It was financed ^{by} someone to the amount of money to pay for gas and oil. Pijoen inspired the trip. He is a man with a very large idea of his own capacity to do things and with a very small capacity to execute. I surmised this before we started and told Hilton that he would have to take charge of details or we would be in the soup. This he felt disinclined to do because Pijoen had started the thing. For this reason things were badly handled. McCully took charge of the provisions, and did it well. Pijoen is an old granny and likes to talk and palaver, and thereby loses much time. Because he could talk Spanish he thought he could save us a lot of time and trouble at the border, but we lost an hour or two where we could have got through in 15 minutes if he had not been along. He knew the road because he had been over it, but he got lost three times and we wandered around aimlessly for a day, and got nowhere. Every day we lost much time because of his fussing, till Woodford began to kick, then things went a little better. Hilton was sick all the trip and had to be sent home ahead of the rest of us. There were seventeen in the party, students, in six machines, all Fords but two. Hilton, McCully, Woodford, Pijoen, and I of the Faculty. We drove to the Coast the first day and camped where Agave Shawii abounds. The road was fine, vegetation much the same as at home. From there the way was along the coast for miles then over a high range and down to Ensenada. On the crest of the range I got two flowering specimens of Saxifraga Californica. We fiddled away nearly half a day at Ensenada in doing nothing waiting for Pijoen to get started. Then we drove out to the Duck club after getting lost. One of the machines broke a radius rod there.

By the way I should have told more about the personnel of the party. Keck

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should have been assigned to me but was put with Feudge who was going with his own machine. Well, Keck went over to San Bernardino to go, but the machine broke down before they got to Riverside so that they abandoned the trip. Wright Pierce rode with me, also Rich. He carried a big roll of bedding (Pierce). Then he smoked a tough pipe most all day, but otherwise is a fine fellow. I abhor tobacco in any form, for it gives me a headache. Weldon, Sonneman, Hinckley, Mathewson, Clark, your football manager, and others were along.

From the camp on the bay we drove over several ranges of mountains over steep grades and in places rocky slopes much cut up by rains, but in the main the roads were good, and camped in a canon. The next day we drove to the Coast below Johnson's at Colonette. From there to San Quentin bay it is nearly level sea benches with considerable sand. We made Miss Hamilton's ranch a rendezvous, which is the place to outfit for the San Pedro Martirs. Then we drove to San Quentin 22 miles and back. It is a lonely place, a few houses, and a landing for boats. The bay is about a mile long and half as wide, land-locked. Three volcanic peaks lie to the west that look as though they might make good botanizing. The country adjoining is mostly recently risen from the sea and is alkaline. The whole area from Tia Juana south is Tropical (Lower Sonoran) even to the top of all the mountains that we crossed. *Adenostoma* is common at the north but feathers out southward. *Prunus ilicifolia* is rare southward. *Rhus integrifolia* and *laurina* are common but smaller southward. *Eriogonum fasciculatum* is everywhere in endless forms. It may be that allied species replace it in alkaline places, but superficial appearances would tend to placing all forms in this species. There is no grass in the entire region worth speaking of, brush everywhere. There is a *Lycium* with very thick and spatulate leaves, apparently common everywhere in low elevation, *L. Californicum* probably. *Simmondsia* is everywhere even on alkaline plains. That rigid *Juncus* abounds in all wet places. *Agave Shawii* is the prevailing plant over at least 100 square miles. It is coming into bloom. From Ensenada southward is a tall *Cereus*, very spiny, and about 4 ft. long, and 4 inches

thick. I think it has spiny fruit, it is unbranched. Then at Johnson's comes in the first pitayia (*Cereus*) which is 5 to 10 ft. high, branched like a candelabrum, with conspicuously angular branches rarely more than 2 feet long, short spines, grass-green stems, small red globular berries less than an inch long, smooth and spineless, and small greenish flowers about an inch long. It is not the same pitayia that I used to see in continental Mexico. I have not tried to identify it. it gives a strange look to the landscape. *Mammillaria Goodridgii* is common and will soon be in bloom. There is a peculiar *Opuntia* which I assume is *prolifera* with the habit of *arborescens*, with unusually ^{thick} stems and smooth fruit which is often proliferous like its more decumbent prototype farther north. In the sandy washes a very tall *artemisia* forms thickets, it has needle-like leaves but is not *filifolia*, it is often 10 ft. high. Then there is our common *Baccharis* growing and looking like willows, and another *Baccharis* which I suppose is *sergiioides* that is very common. There is another *Artemisia* with ovate and entire leaves that forms thickets. That *Franseria* with corrugated, thick, ovate leaves white below, a shrub, is common as is an *Encelia*, probably our common form here. A pentstemon that Kellogg published years ago as *Galvesia juncea* is common in the canons. *Notolaena californica* is common as is the gold fern, also. I saw one locality where *Romneya* grows, near Johnson's. *Suaeda* and *salicornia* occur in suitable places. *Pluchea* is locally abundant. Practically nothing was in bloom, but I got left-overs here and there. A peculiar *Euphorbia* ^{*misera* --- ?} ~~*nigra*~~ ^{*misera*} abounds and is covered with lichens and was in bloom. Toward San Quentin there is much lichen on the ground, which would imply a greater humidity than we have here. There are no ^o ~~fr~~est trees in the region except rarely in the canons, we find *populus* and *sycamore*. They raise bananas at Hamilton's. The whole country is in a state of nature, and with few people. I took the ⁿ ~~names~~ ^{names} of the white people living there so that I could write to them. There is a regular autos stage going twice a month. We can drive to El Rosario from San Quentin. We can outfit at Hamilton's for the mountains. From appear-

ances the best floral season will be about ~~April~~ April 1st. on the ~~lowlands~~. It should be good this year. Gasoline will be hard to get. Should carry 20 gallons from Ensenada. The best way to get into the low country is to go by boat. Later in June an auto trip to Hamilton's and outfitting there for the Martirs would cover the mountains. If we could get someone to put up \$500 to \$1000 we could hire a launch on the Coast for a month's trip, and go down to the Cape and botanize back, stopping as conditions warranted, and get the whole flora. From appearances the lower part of the peninsula is more fertile but there are no roads available below El Rosario. I would be willing to spend the time necessary to make the trip, if we could get the money to finance it. Pigeon wants to have me go down with him at Easter time but he is such a chum that I would not want to waste the time with him. Keck is crazy to go. It was too bad that he lost out. By and by as I take a notion I will identify the specimens I got, but this preliminary report will cover what you would like to know probably.

It is evident to me that if we want to work up the flora of Lower California we shall have to make a list with descriptions of all the species known to exist in the region that are not described in Gray's flora. At Johnson's a new flora comes in that is different largely in species but not in genera. The general aspect of the flora is the same but the species are not.

Well, I suppose you will soon be back. We can then talk over plans for the season. I think the desert flora will be better than last year but not extra good unless we get more rain. Grass is about 4 inches high here now. The grain fields are beginning to look green, We have had killing frosts in the last two weeks, but the fruit has not been injured much yet, except where they did not smudge.

I will send you a few photos.

Very truly yours,

Marian E. Jones